



NOPISSA IGCIPI GERIOP

This is how we read Nubian





NOPIΓΓΔ IGΓIP ΓEPLOY

This is how we read Nubian

a Nubian alphabet book by Hatim Eujayl



Taras Press

This book is dedicated to all of its first readers:
family members and friends who provided
suggestions and encouragement from the book's
inception to its completion. A special thanks
goes to Hafiz, Aman, Kylie, Emily, and Vincent,
the five people I probably pestered the most.

But even more importantly, this book is
dedicated to the Nubians of the past and the
present, whose heritage continues to form the
core of my work.

I hope you will accept this book as a small token
of my appreciation.

A NOTE ON THE TITLE

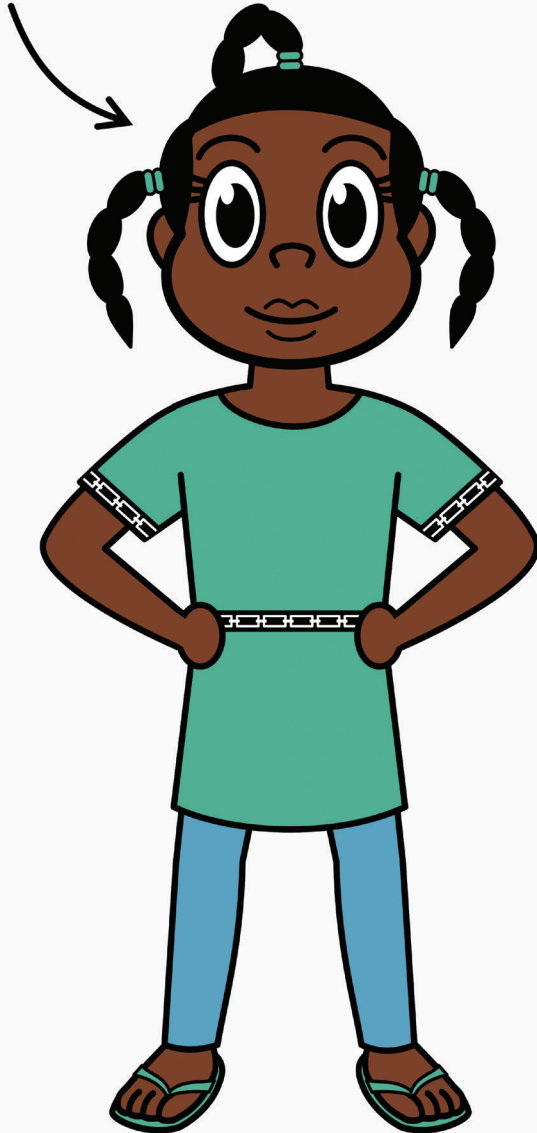
This book's subtitle - "this is how we read Nubian" - is a direct reference to Dr. Mukhtar Khalil Kabbara's seminal work on the Nubian alphabet, "**نوطین-
فد کلک-کلر فڈی-وا؟**" Published in 1997, Dr. Kabbara's book heralded a new era of Nubian literacy, simplifying the Old Nubian alphabet and laying the foundation for modern Nubian orthography. This book seeks to build on the work of Dr. Kabbara, his contemporaries, and all of his successors, without whom this book definitely wouldn't exist.

-Hatim

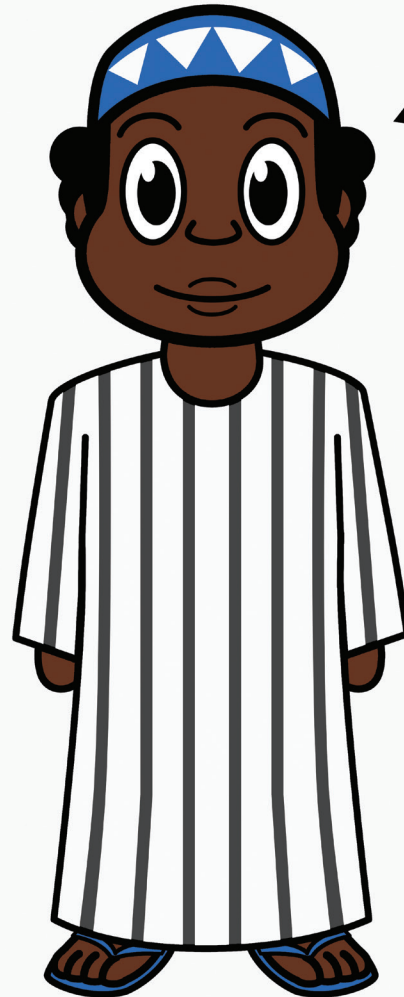
ΟΝΤΑΚΙΡΑΓΟ̅ΥΕΚΕ...

Listen, beloved...

This is Appa.



And this is her little brother, Khalil.



Appa and Khalil love each other.

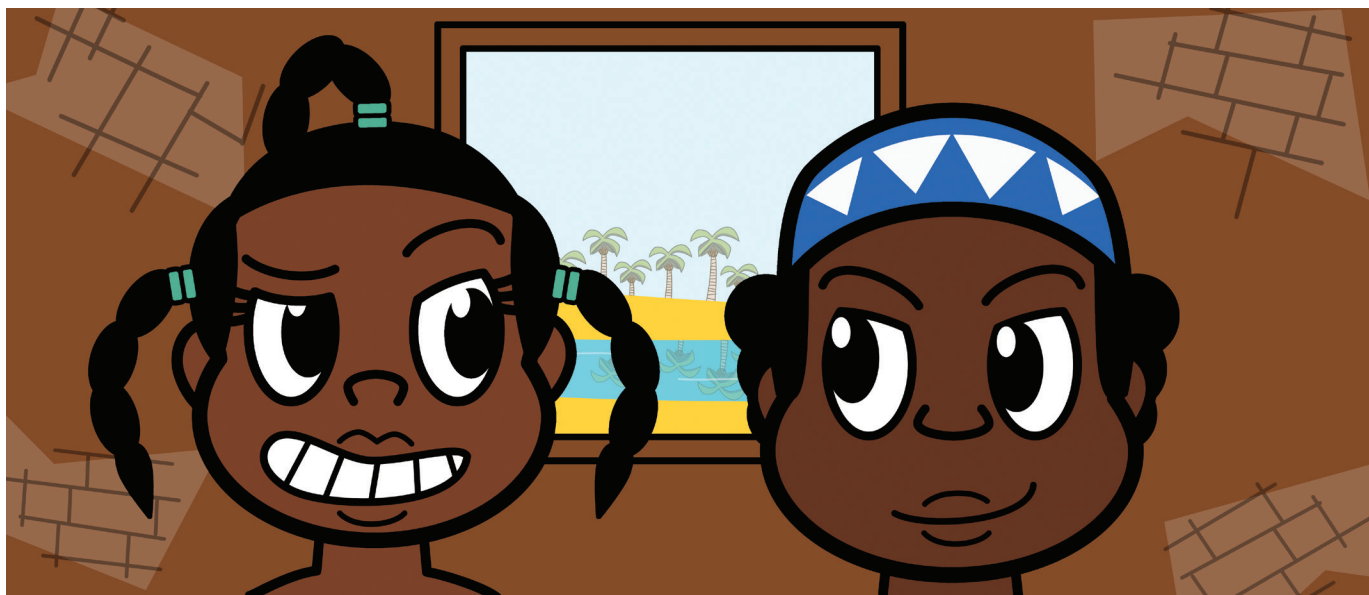


Appa and Khalil also love mysteries.

And to Appa and Khalil, nothing was more mysterious than the cave outside their village.



All the adults told Appa and Khalil never to go there.



But Appa and Khalil weren't very good listeners.

So one night, the two kids snuck away to see the cave.



And what did they find?

Paintings of people.



Some were dancing...



Some wore crowns...



And some were dressed just like Khalil!

What they also found were symbols.



Lots and lots of symbols.



"What are these?"



"Who made these?"



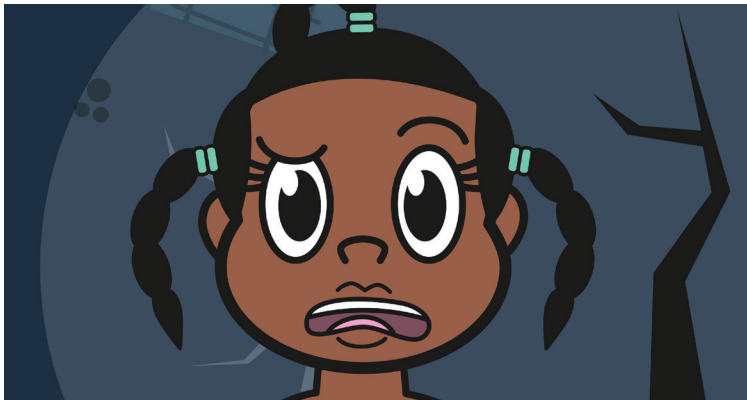
And why hasn't anyone told us about these?

Suddenly, one of the paintings began to glow...



And then....

A man emerged from the painting.



"Suntuwe?
What's a Suntuwe?"



"Someone whose job it is to write!"



"Write what?"



"This!"



"And what is that? English?"



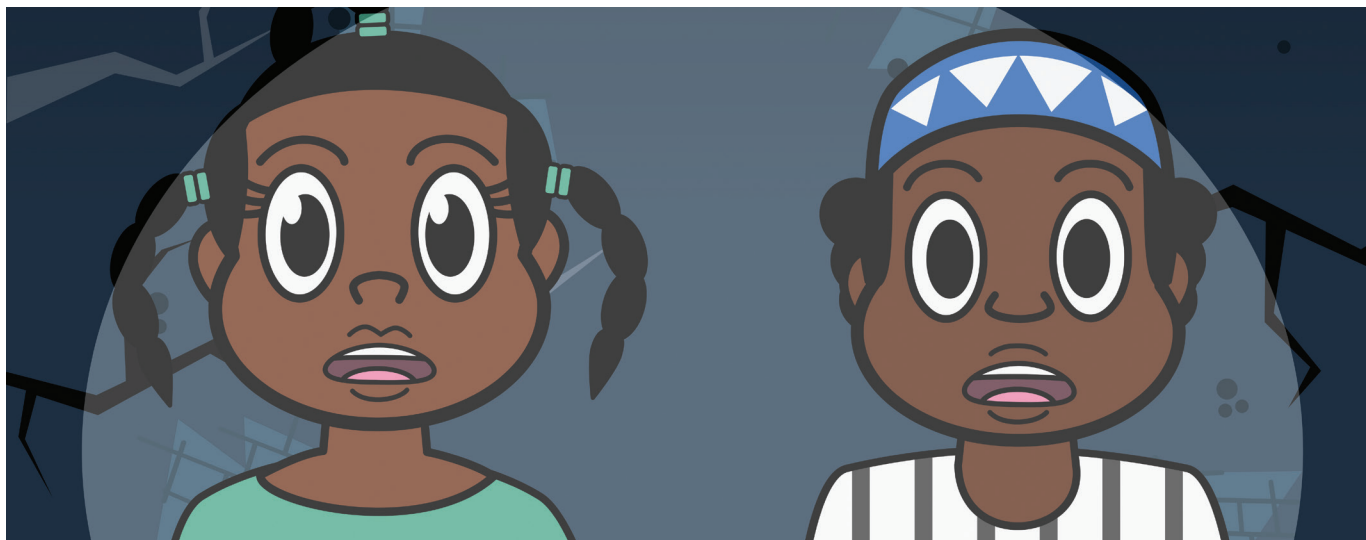
"No!"



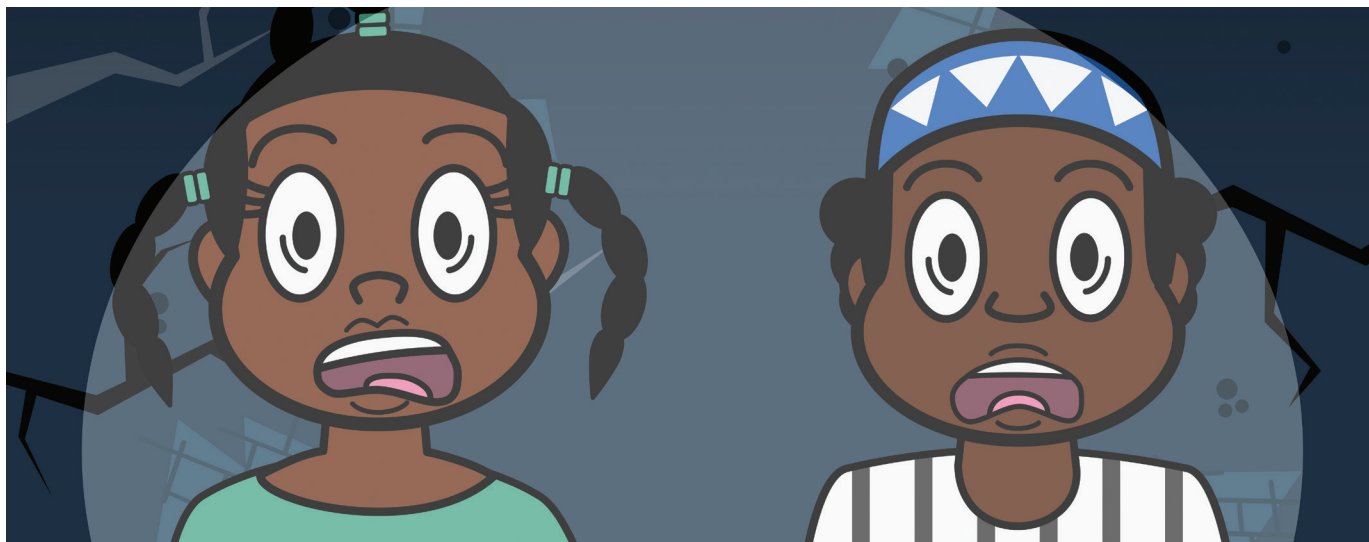
"Is it Arabic?"



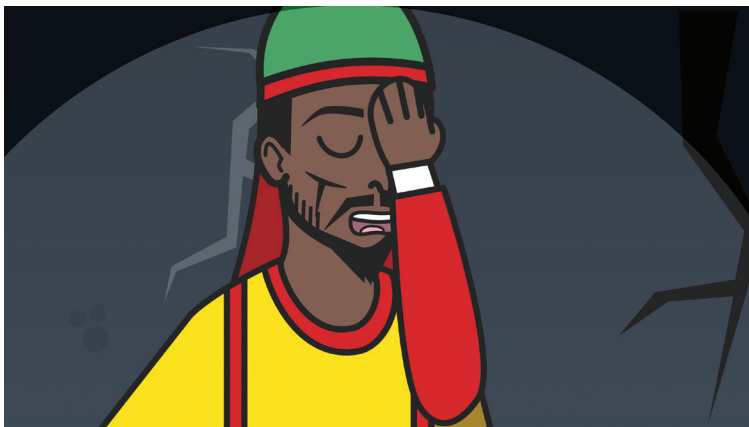
"Of course not!"



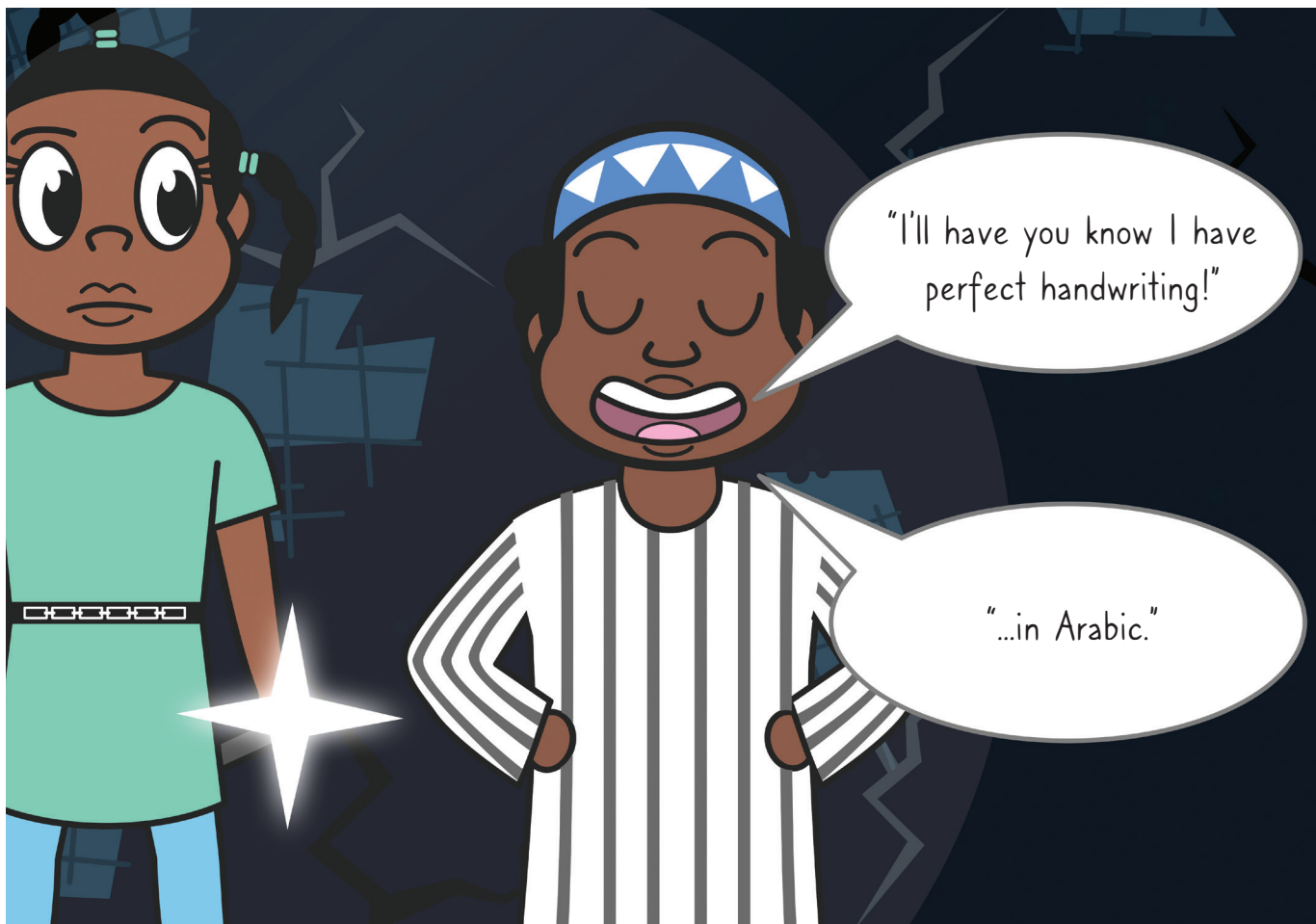
"Wait..."



"It's Nubian?!"

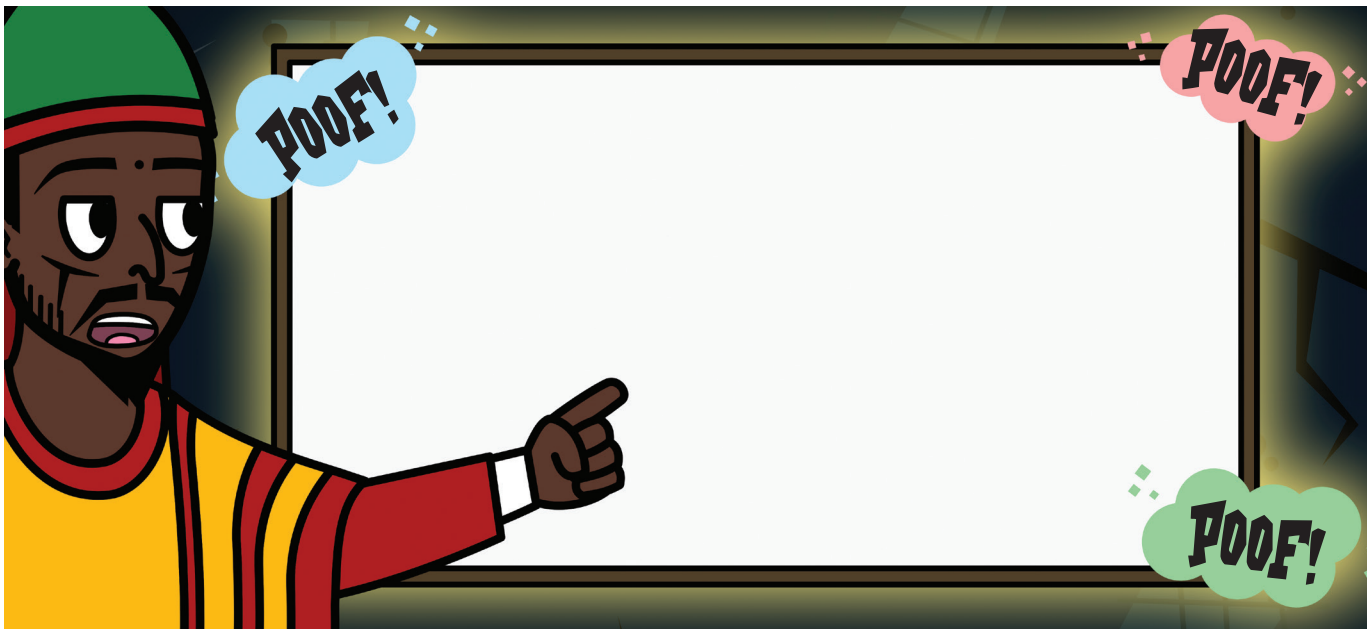


"Please don't tell me my people
have forgotten how to write."





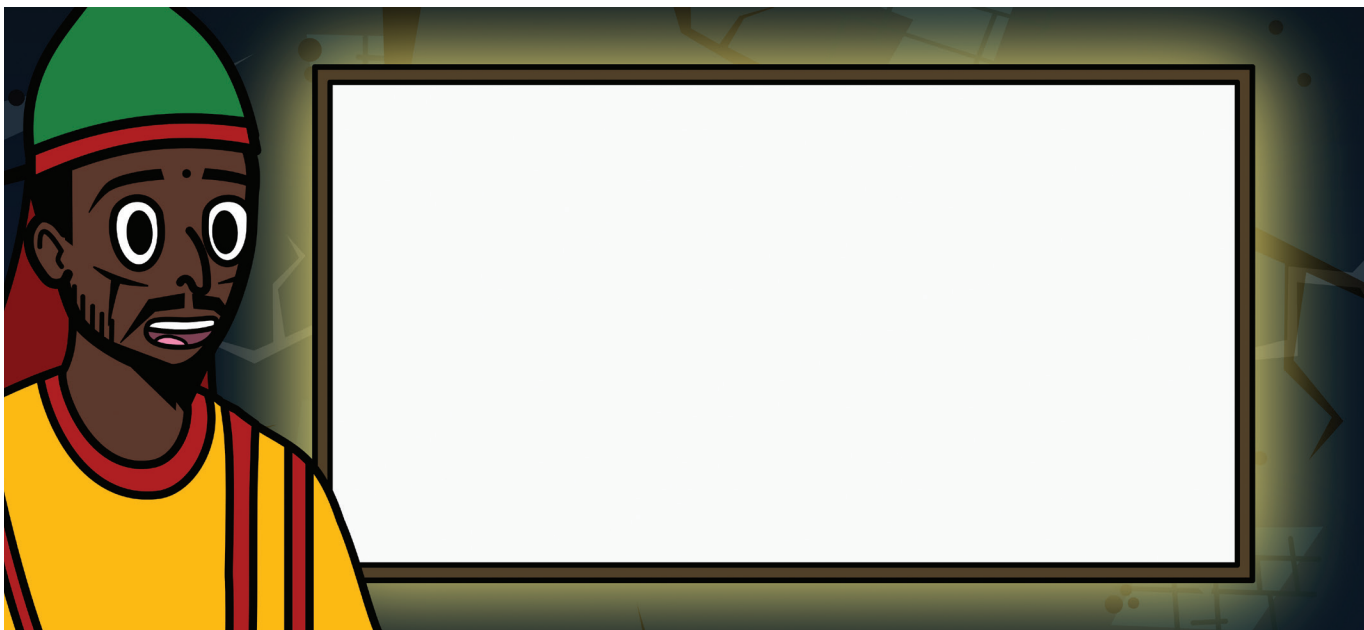
"That's it."



"You two need to learn how to write Nubian."

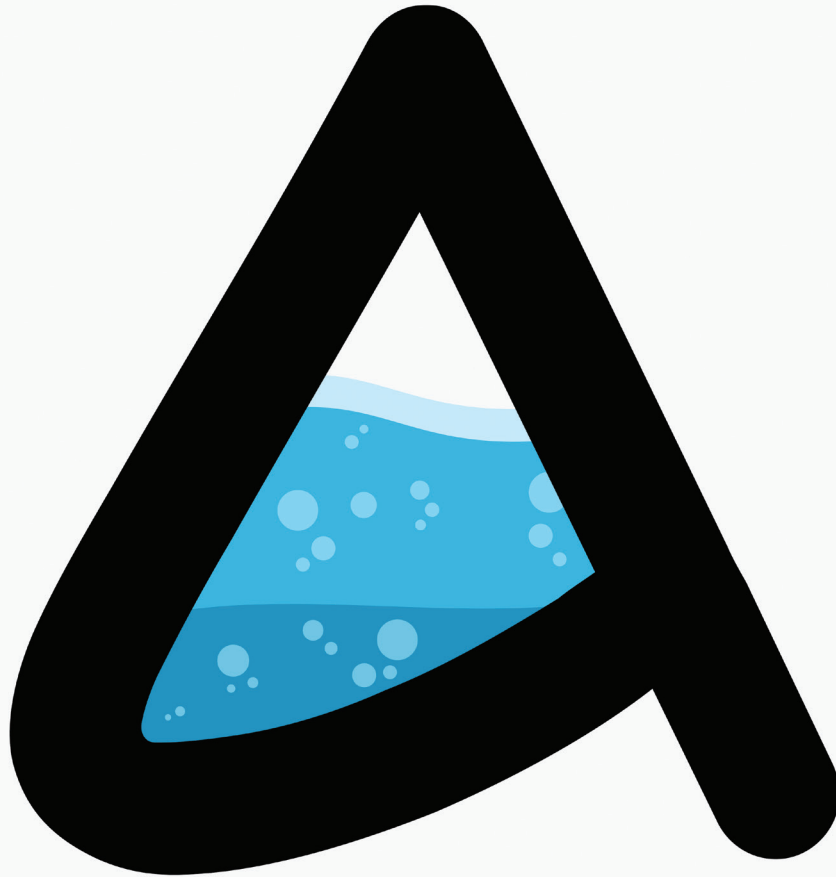


"Is it hard?"



"Not at all! Let's get started, shall we?"

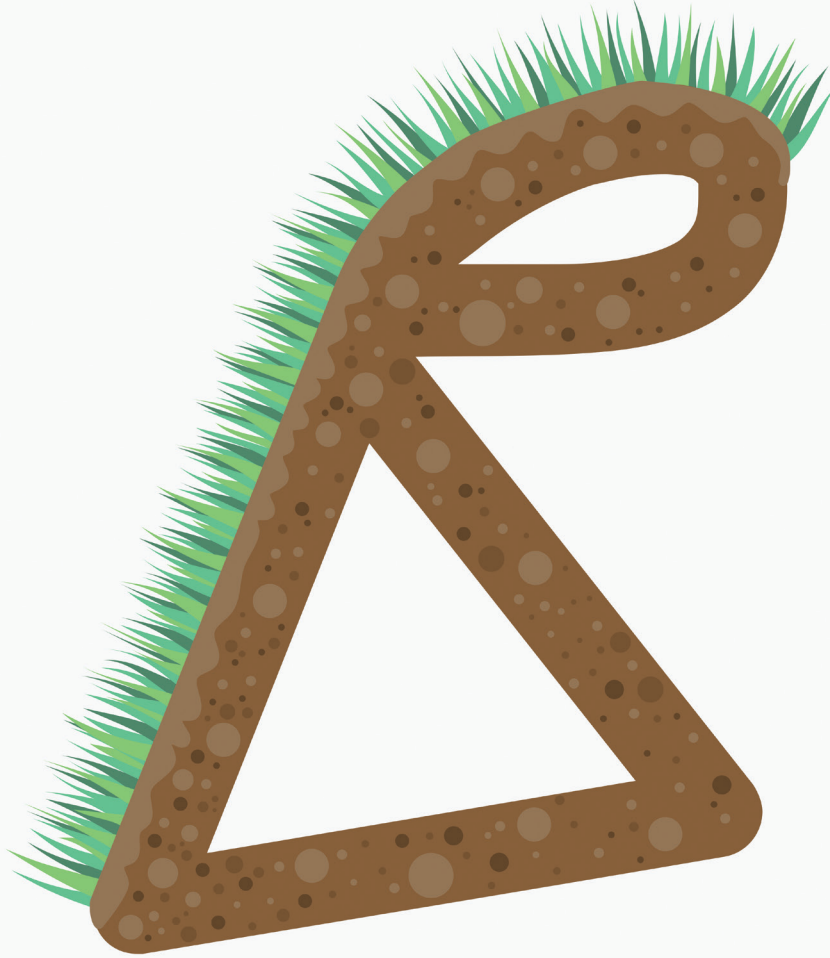
ALFA



Alfa is for **AMAN** ("aman"), which means "water."



BĪTA



Bīta is for **बोयन्दि** ("bundi"), which means "grass."

G A M M A



Gamma is for **ΓΔCΤΙ** ("gasti"), which means "smoke."



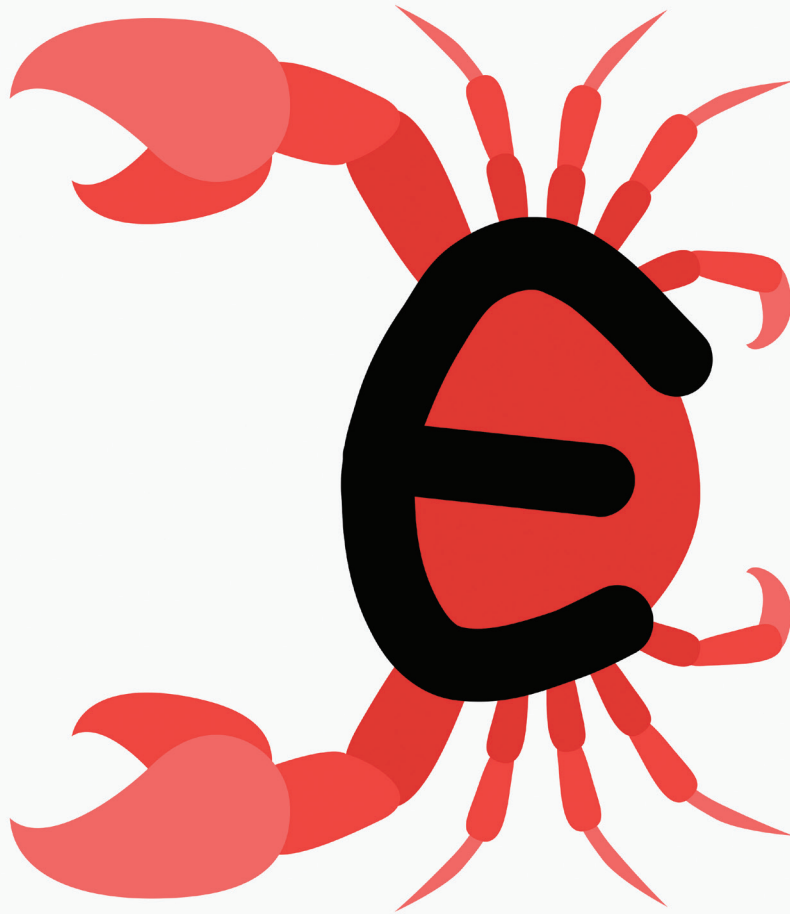
DELTA



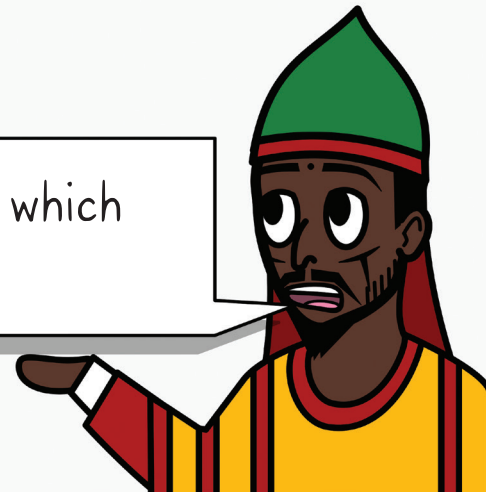
Delta is for Δ αρῖρα ("darīra"), which means "butterfly."



EPSILON



Epsilon is for **ΕCCIN ΕΒΒΙΝ** ("essin echīn"), which means "crab."

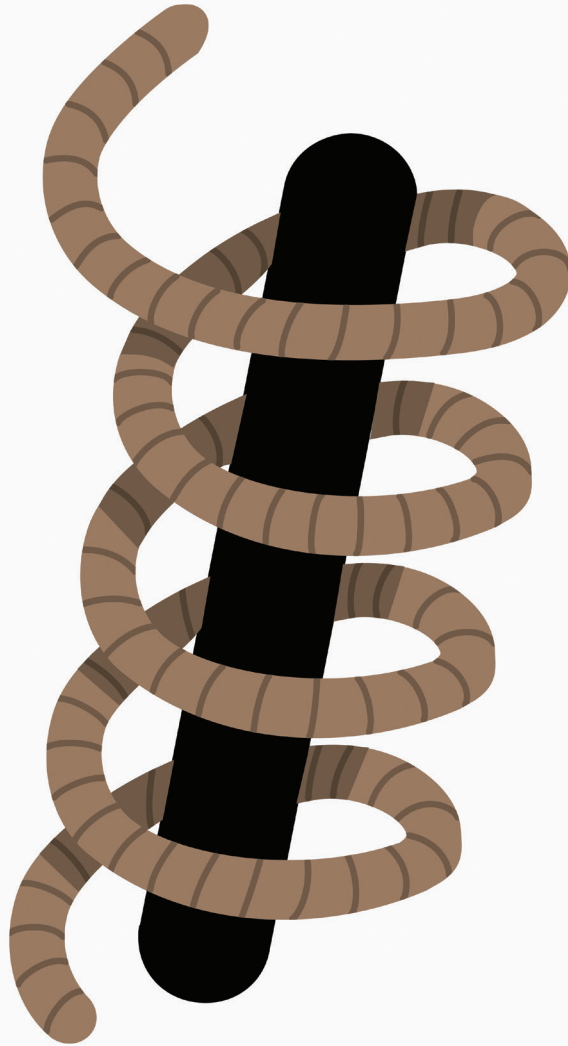


ZĪTA



Zīta is for **ز**INNI ("zinni"), which means "bee."

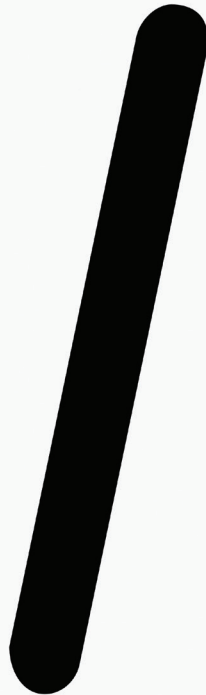
Y Ō TA



Yōta is for *ipi* ("iri"), which means "rope."

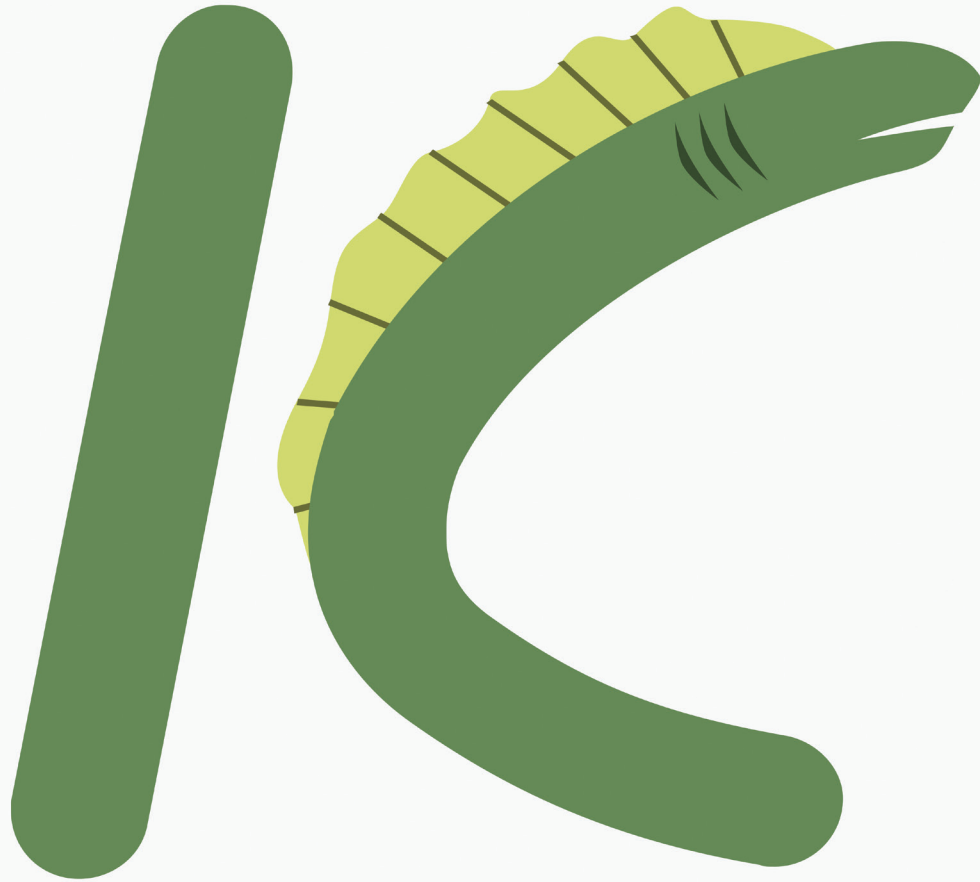


YŌTA NASSI



Yōta nassi is for **ōīē** ("ōyē"), which means "fruit."

KAPPA



Kappa is for **eccin** **kāṛ** ("essin **kāḡ**"), which means "eel."

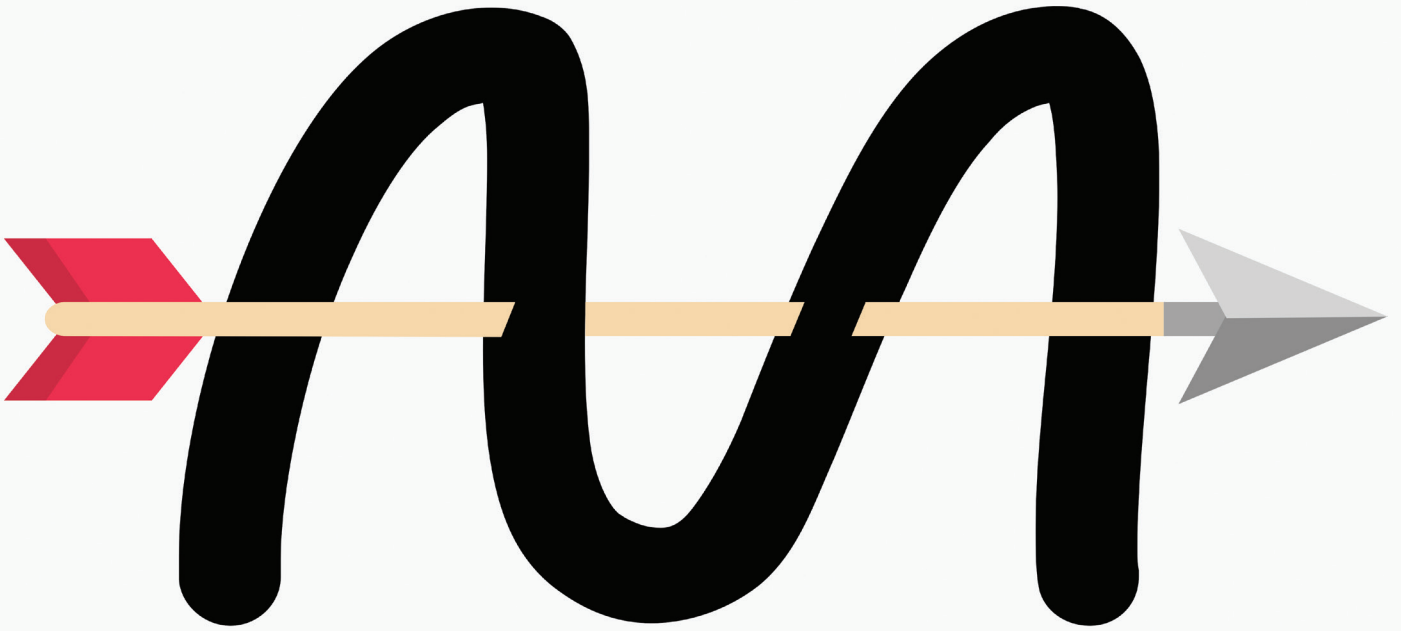


LĀMDA



Lāmda is for *मोयलै* ("mulē"), which means "mountain."

Mī



Mī is for *mirī* ("mirī"), which means "arrow."

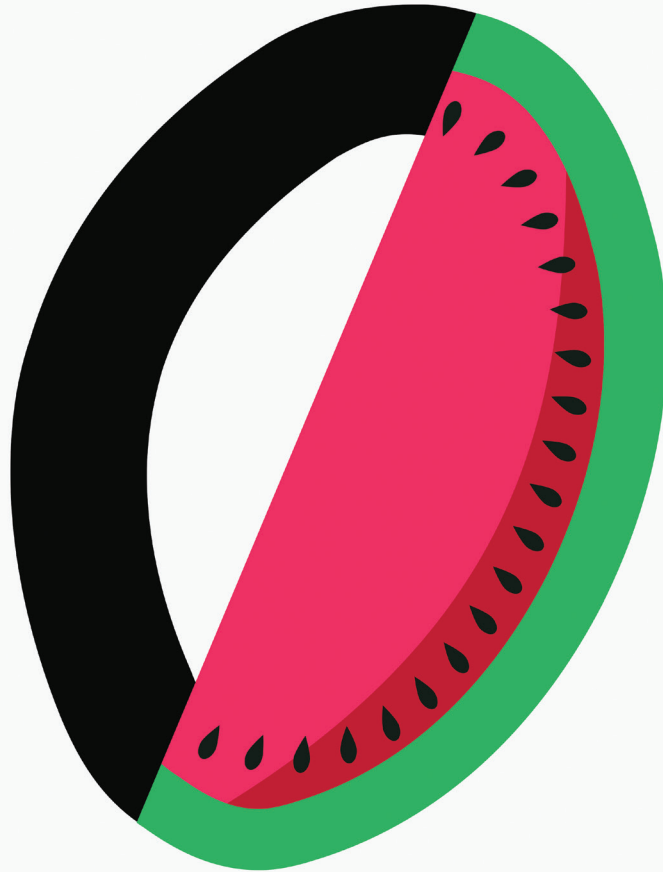


Nī



Nī is for **नाब** ("nab"), which means "gold."

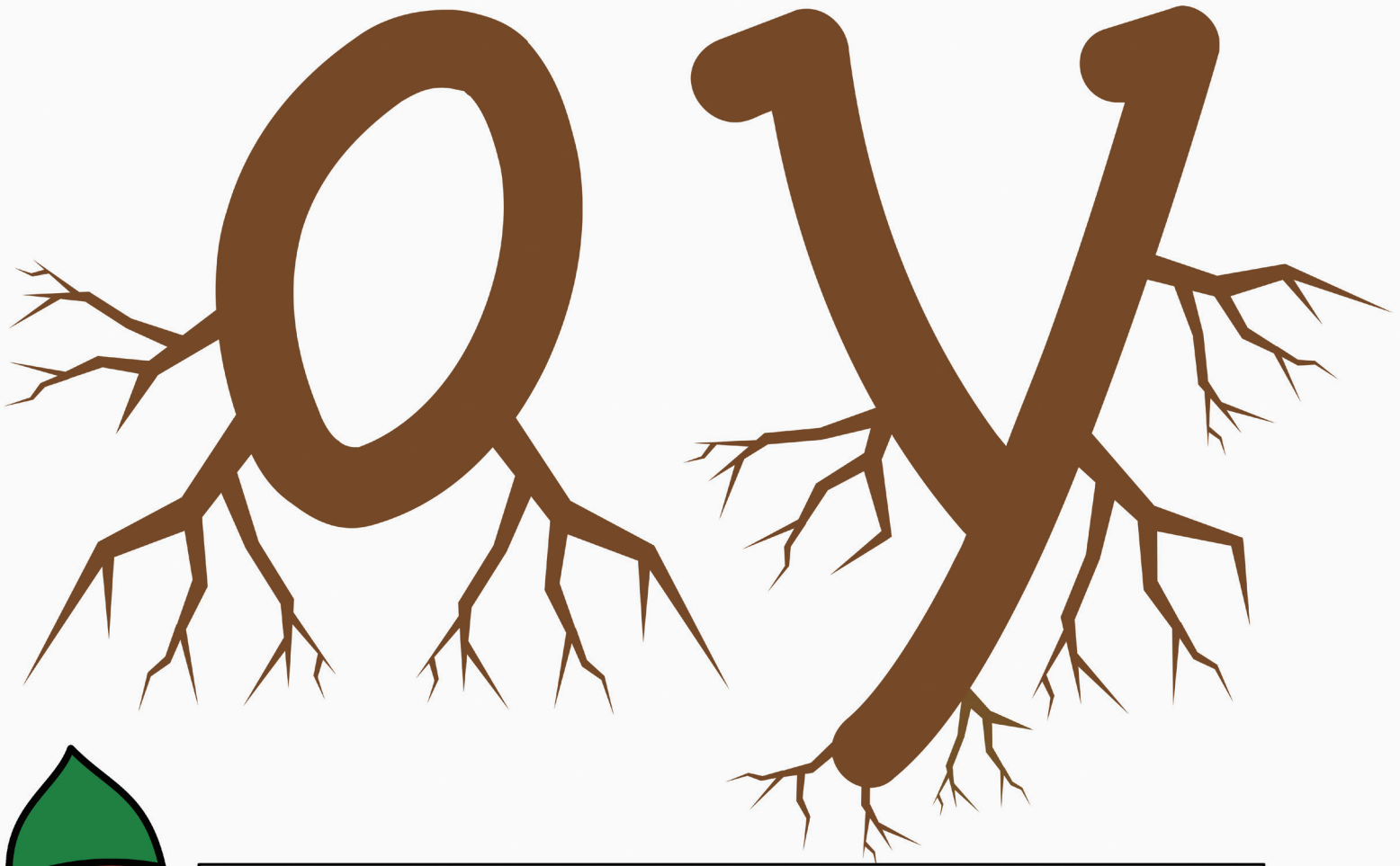
O M I K R O N



Omikron is for $\delta o \Delta o p \bar{i} n$ ("j δ o δ r \bar{i} n"), which means "watermelon."



OMIKRON-UPSILON



Omikron-upsilon is for **οypce** ("urse"), which means "roots."

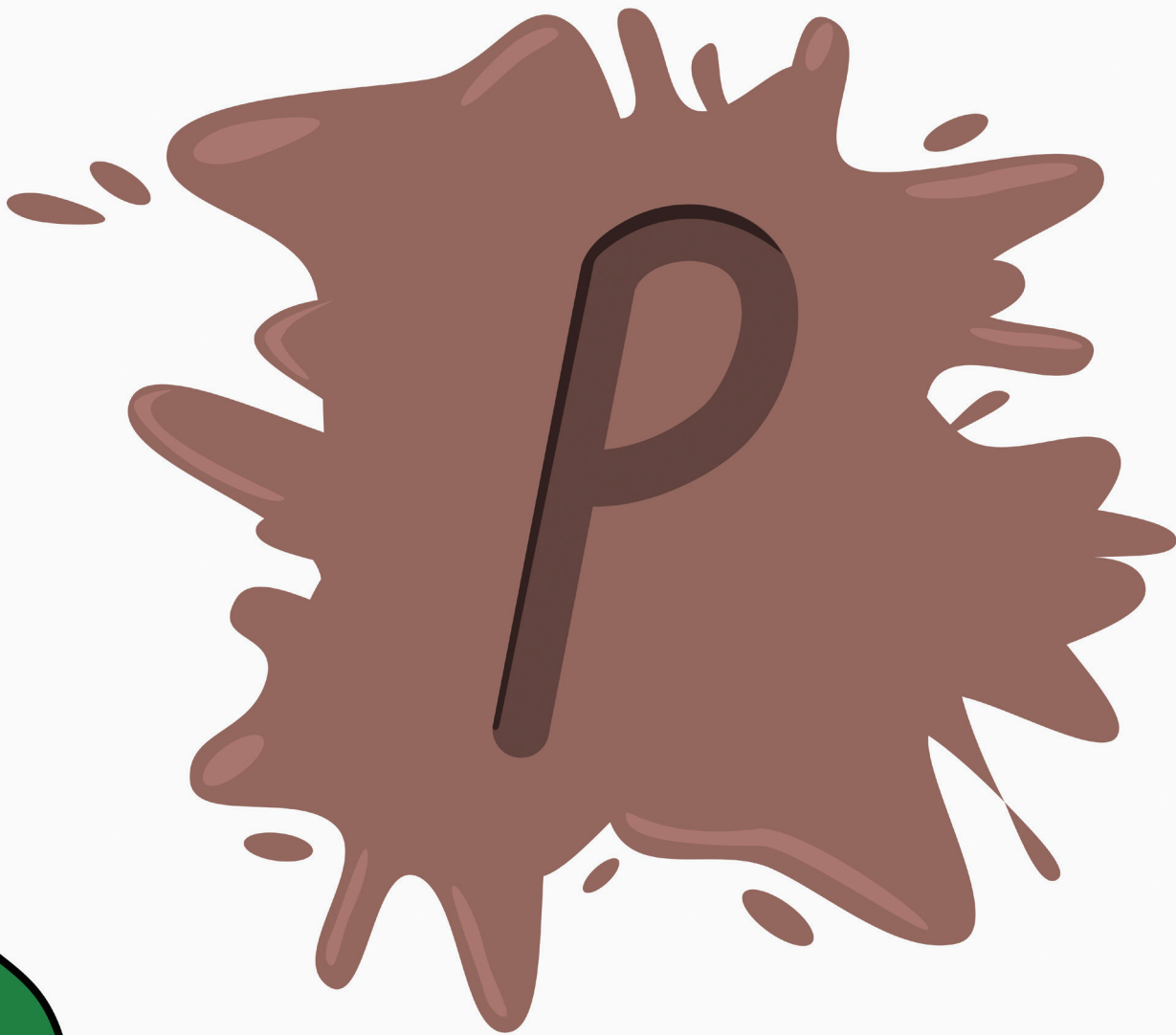
BĪ



BĪ is for **בִּשְׂרִיף** ("bishir"), which means "feather."



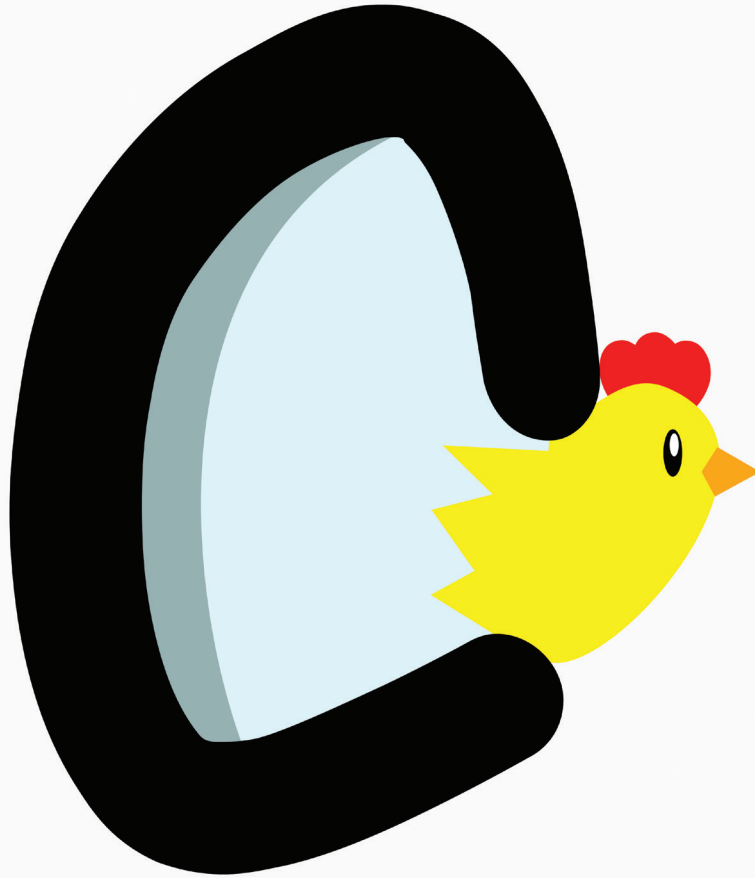
R Ō



Rō is for *apiki* ("arki"), which means "mud."



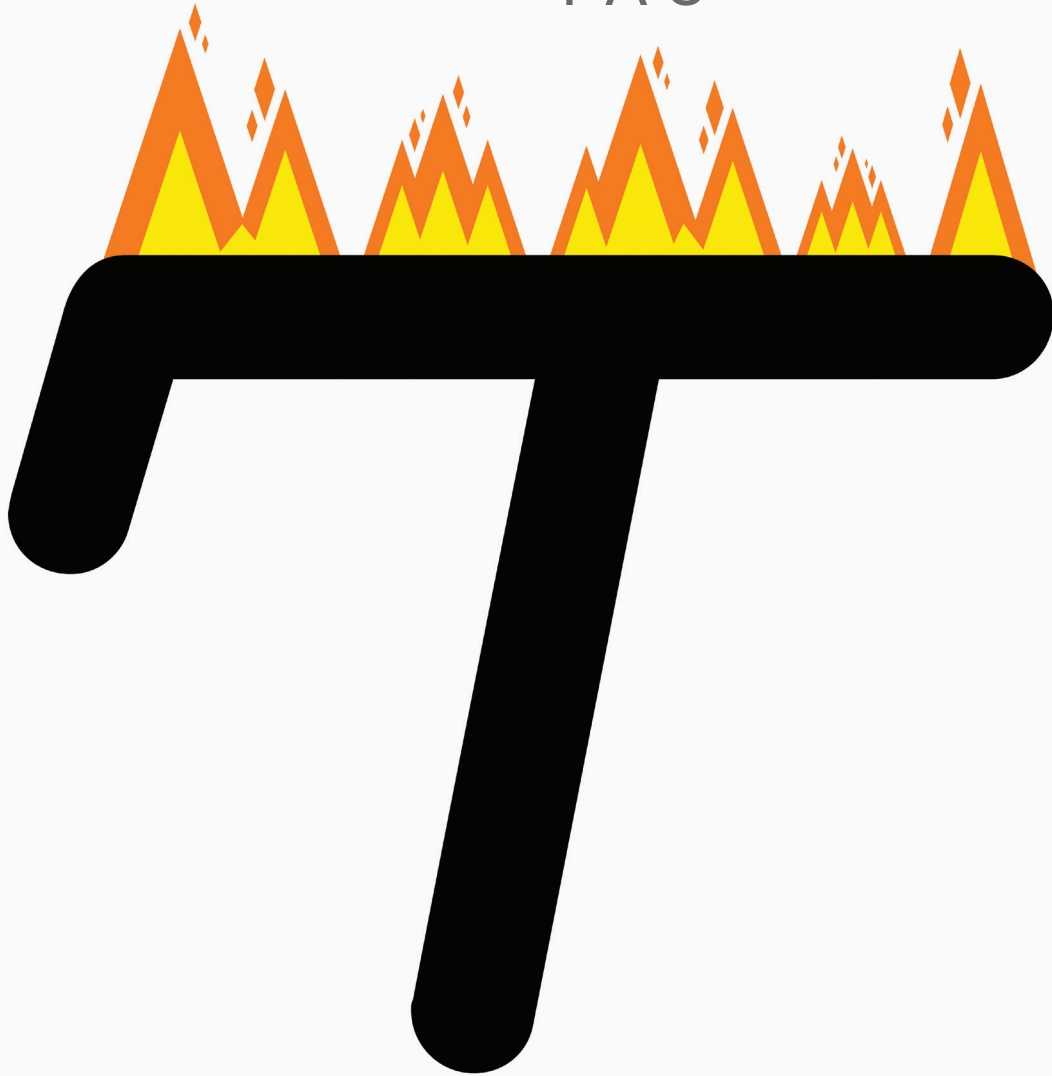
S I G M A



Sigma is for **சி** **த** **சி** **த** ("siw**s**īw"), which means "chick."

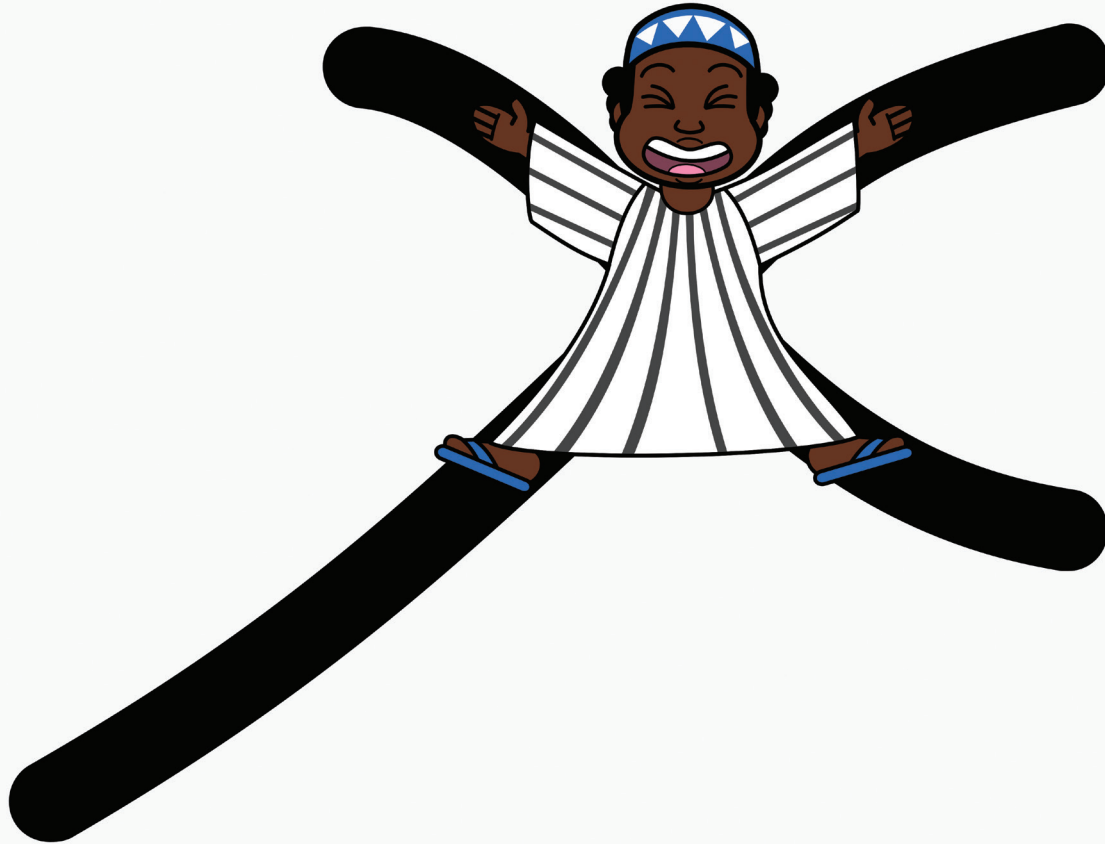


TĀU



Tāu is for **Τ**οῦλλικίρ ("tullikir"), which means "burn."

KHĪ



The letter khī is only used to write Arabic words and names, like **خ**ΔΛĪΛ ("khalīl").



Fī



Fī is for *φαραν* ("farañ"), which means "sword."



OMEGA



Omega is for **ωἰρδι** ("wiñji"), which means "star."

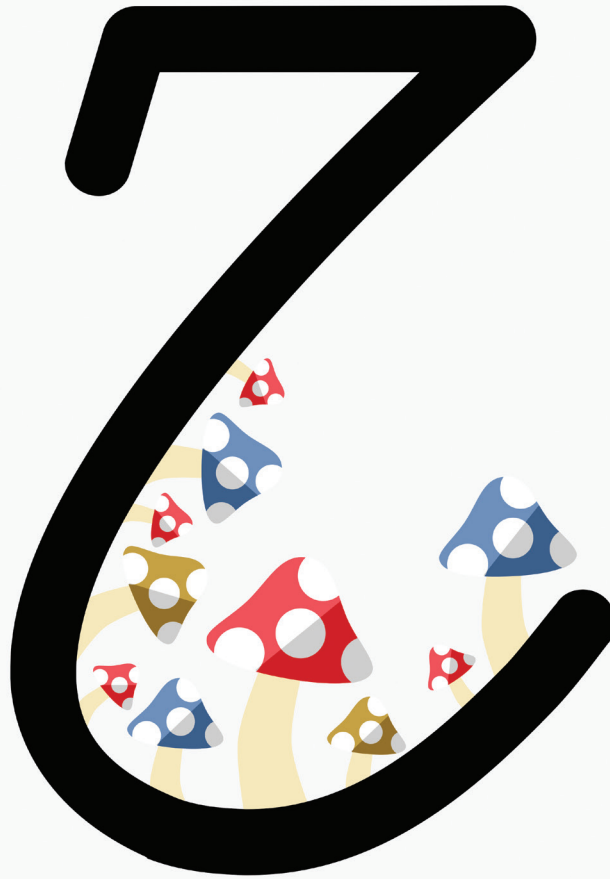


SHĀI

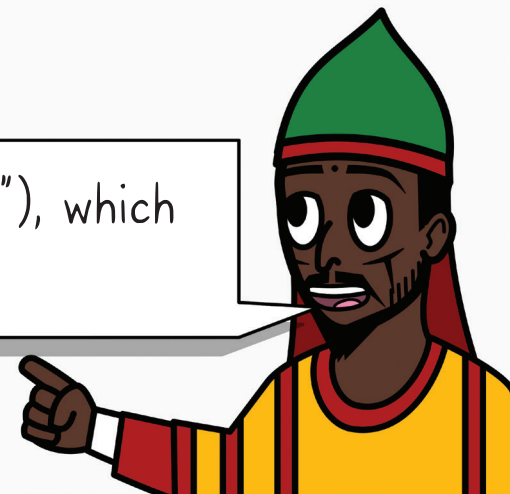


Shāi is for यललल (‘shilling’), which means ‘bell.’

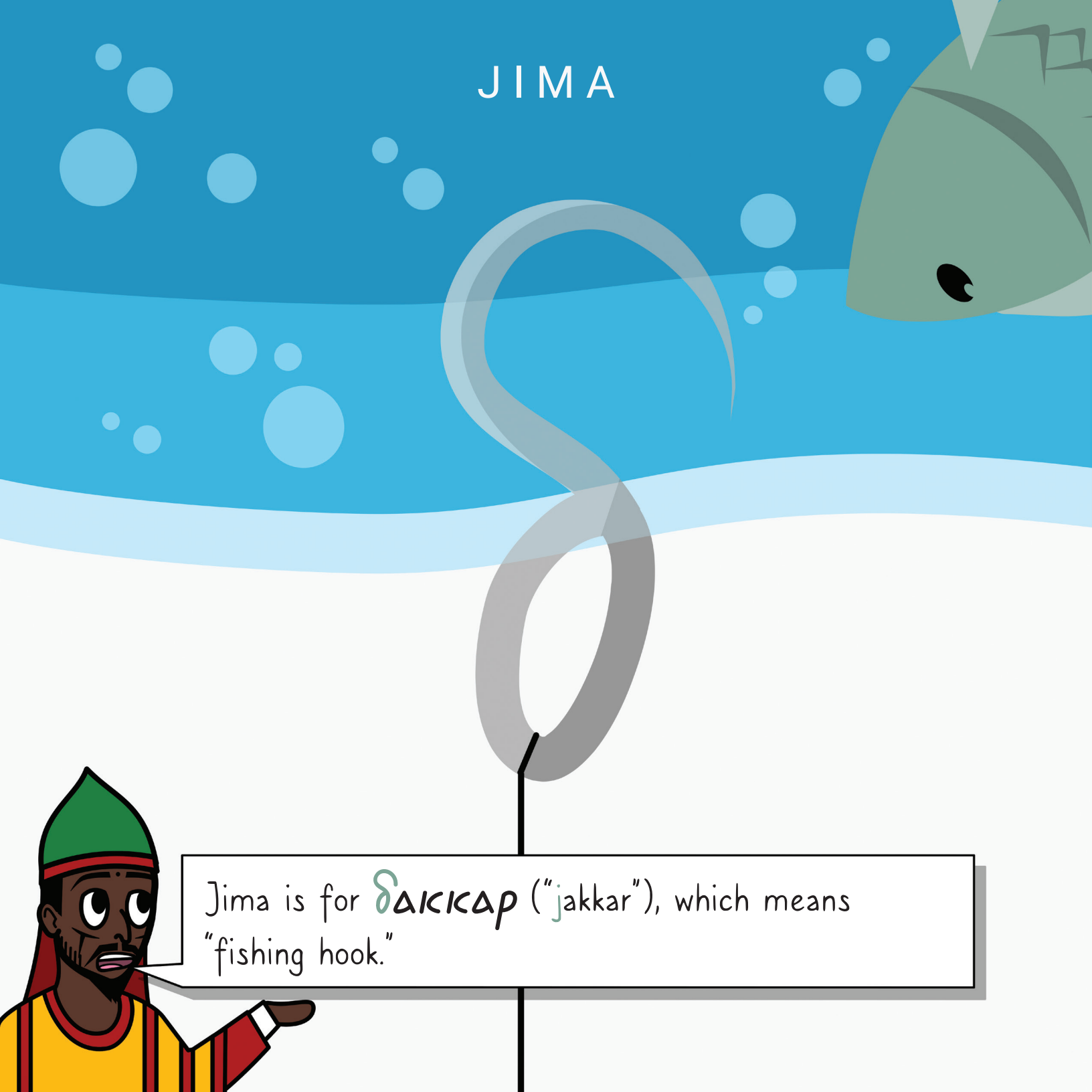
HORI



Hori is for *ᶇANŌYŊ ΦōYp* ("hanūn fūr"), which means "mushroom."

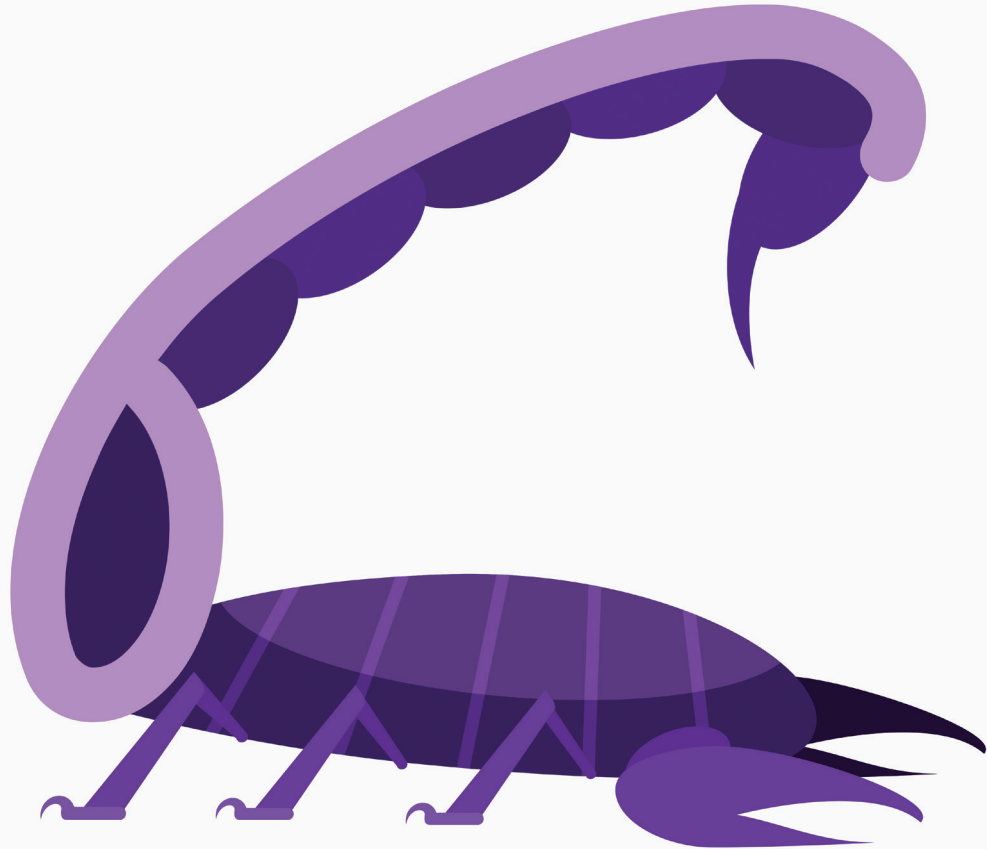


J I M A



Jima is for *δακκαρ* ("jakkar"), which means
"fishing hook."

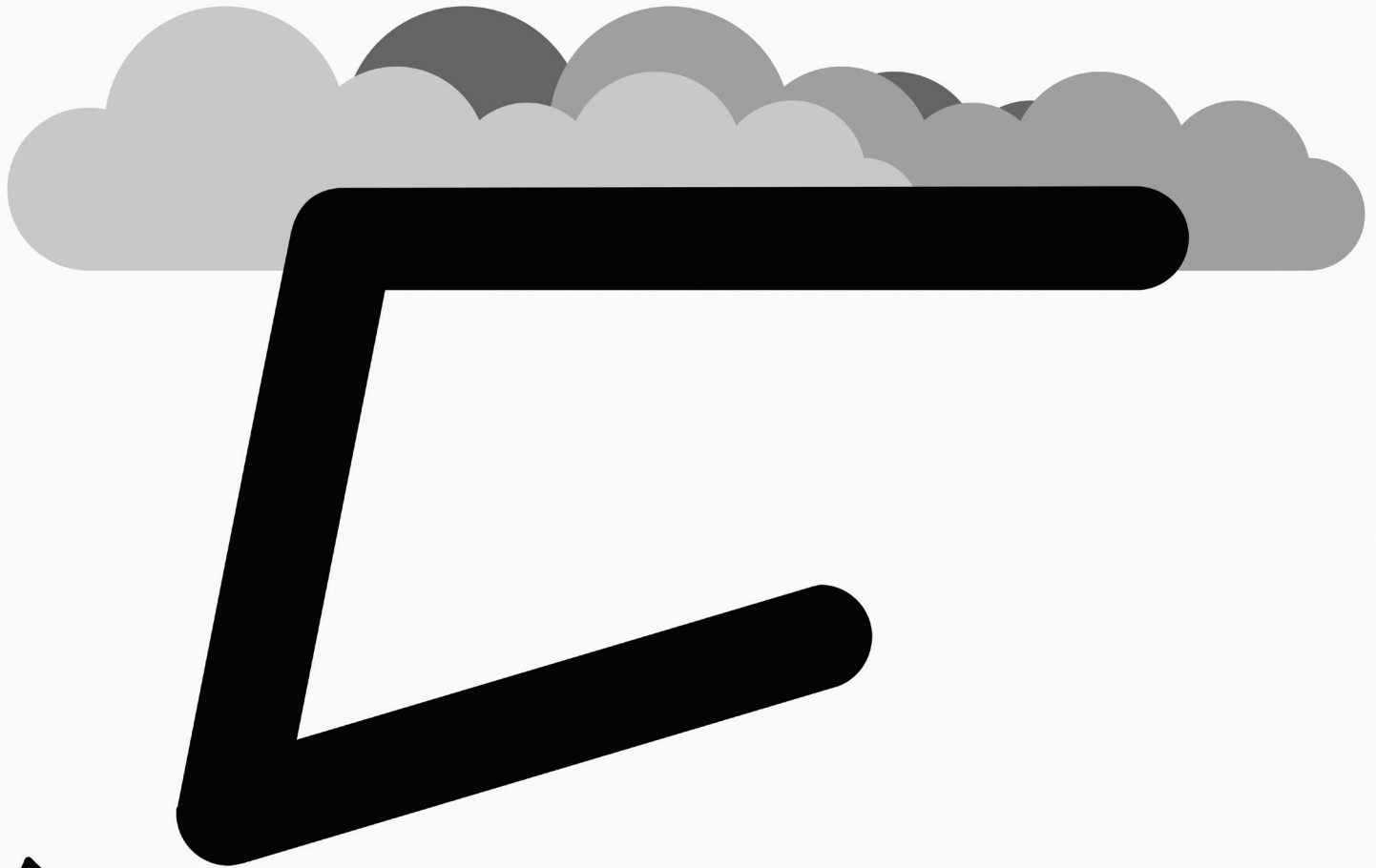
CHIMA



Chima is for **echīn** ("echīn"), which means "scorpion."

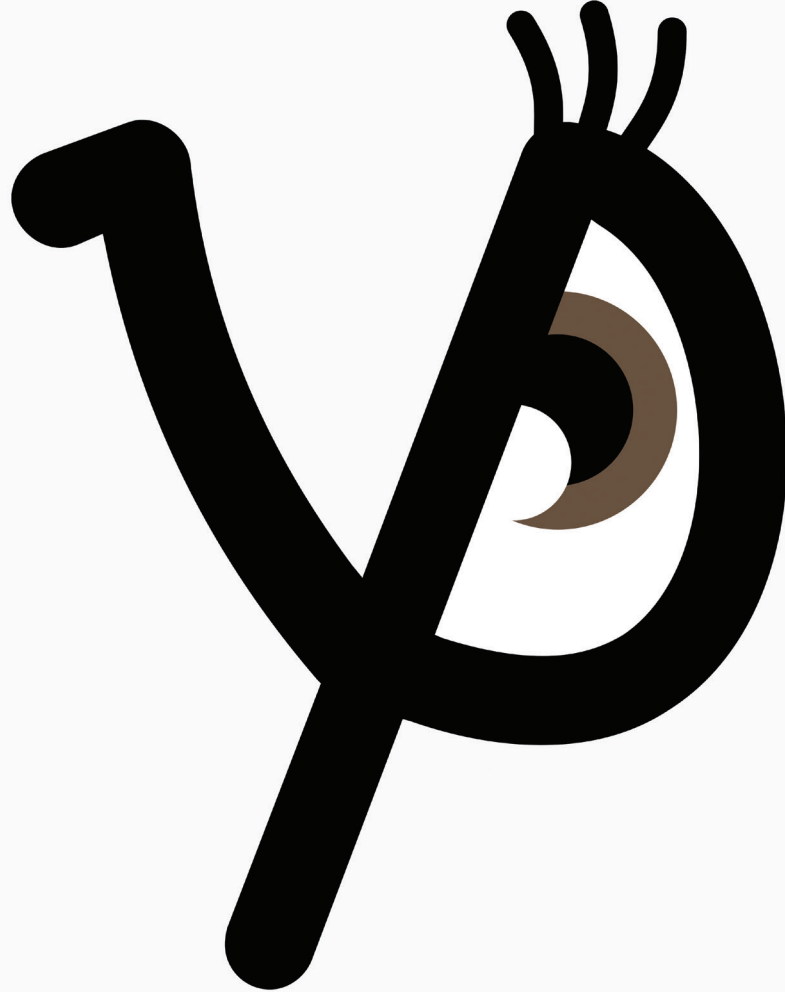


ENGMA



Engma is for *κоруγ* *ἄλ* ("korungād"), which means "cloud."

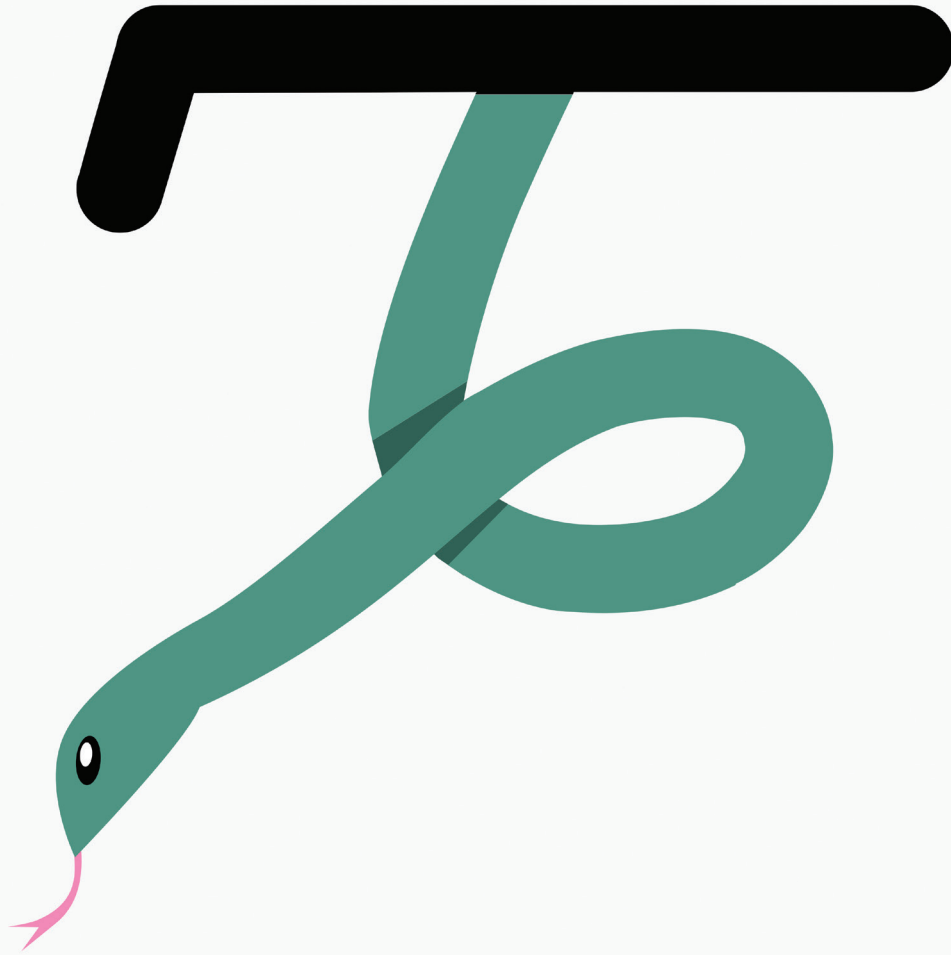
I Ñ I



Iñi is for *may* ("mañ"), which means "eye."

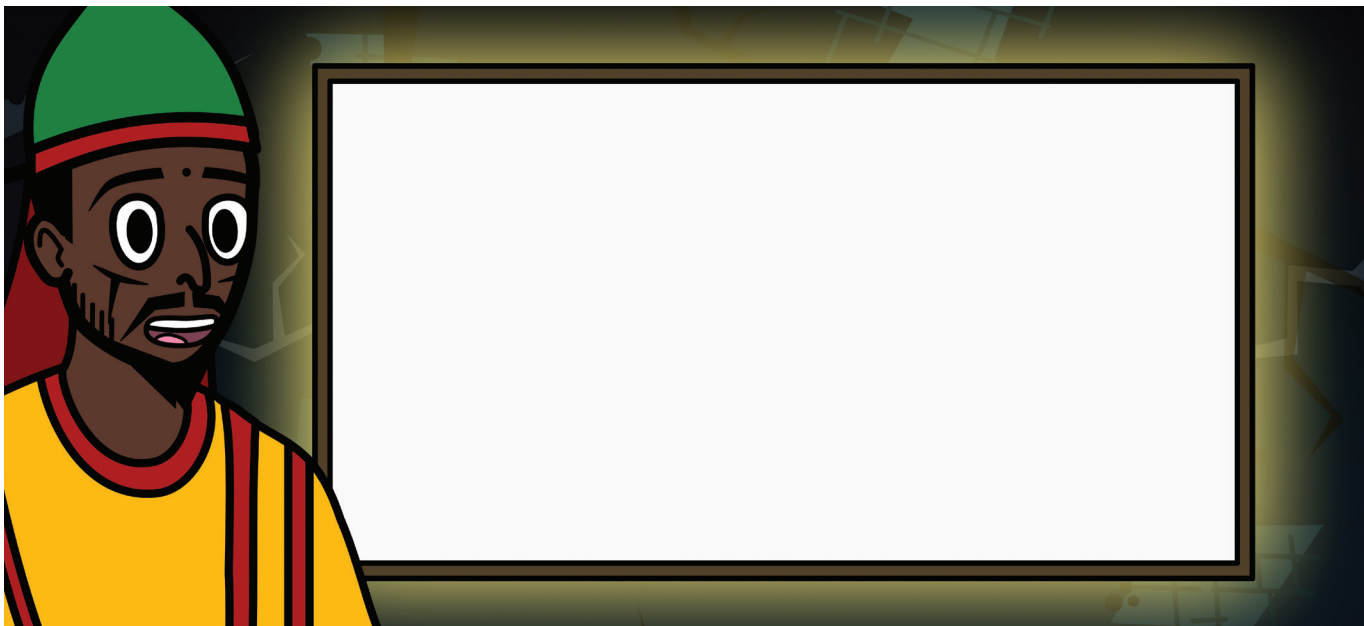


W Ā W



Wāw is for **ϯICΛΔΓI** ("wislangi"), which means "snake."





"Did y'all get that?"



"Yeah!"

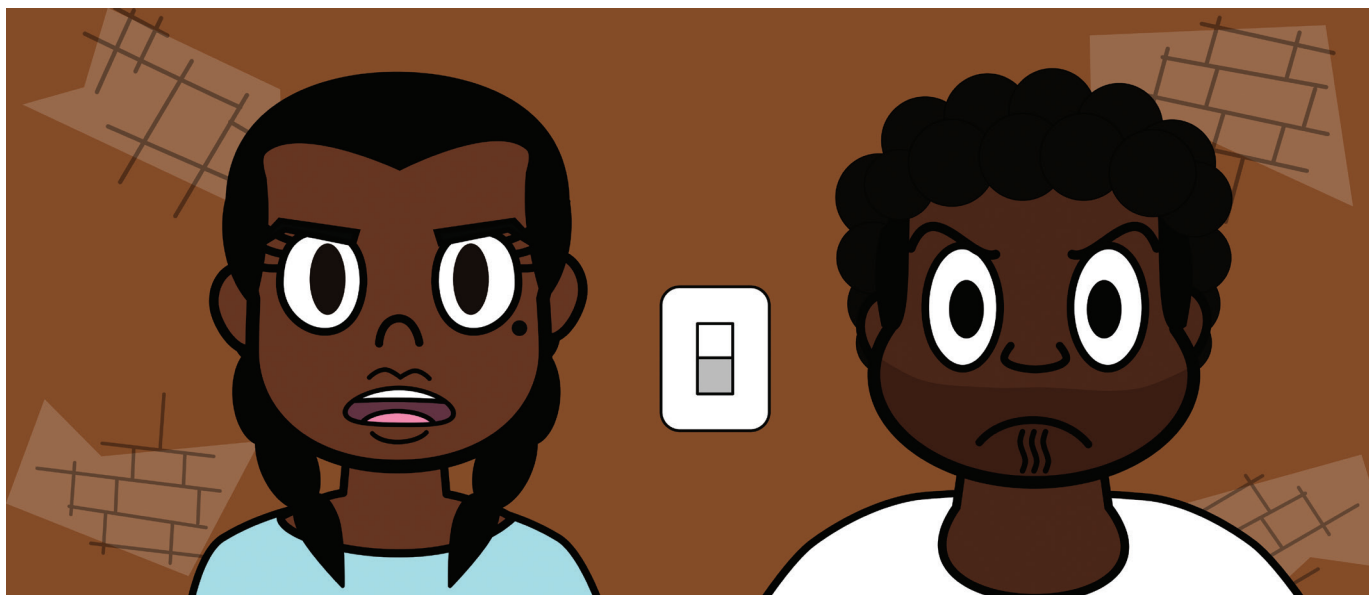


"In that case, I have a mission for you. To learn this alphabet is to adopt a great responsibility..."

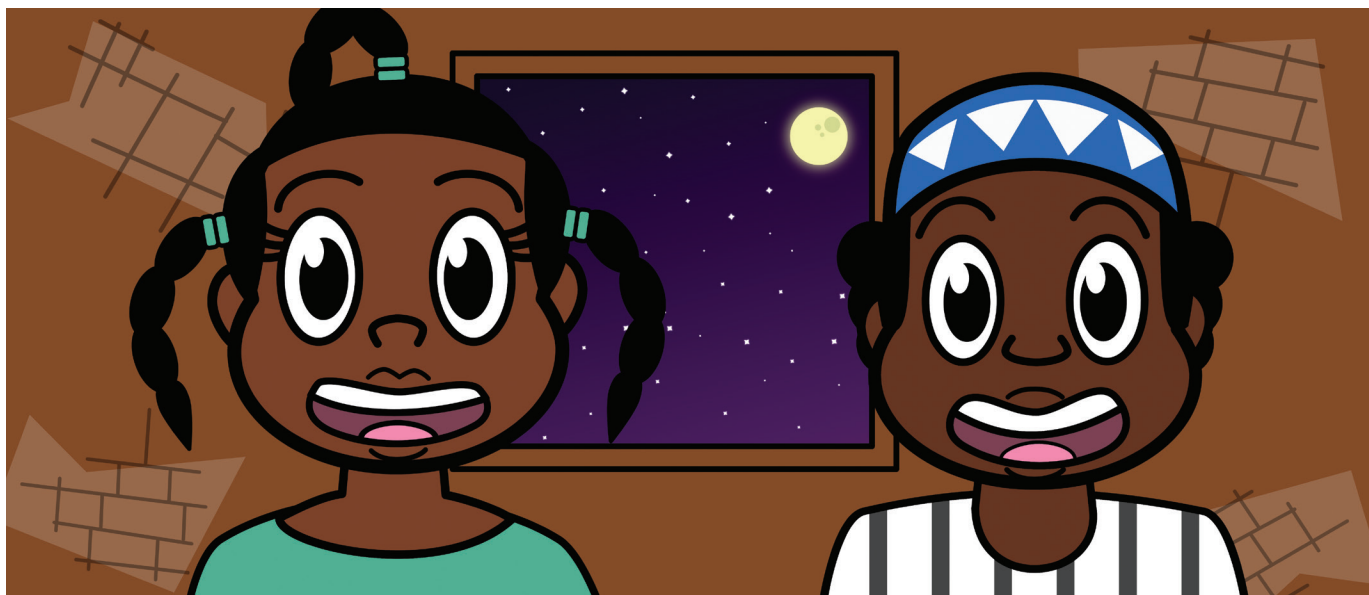


"...it is now your job to...
wait, get back here!"

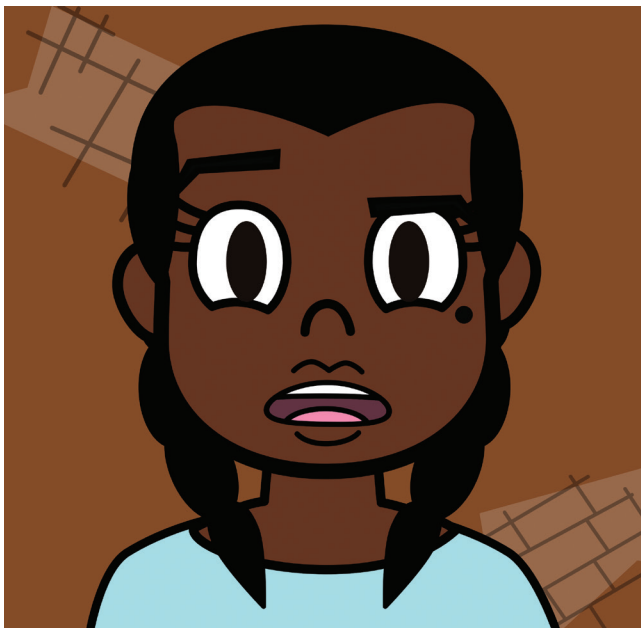
Appa and Khalil returned home, where they found their parents waiting for them.



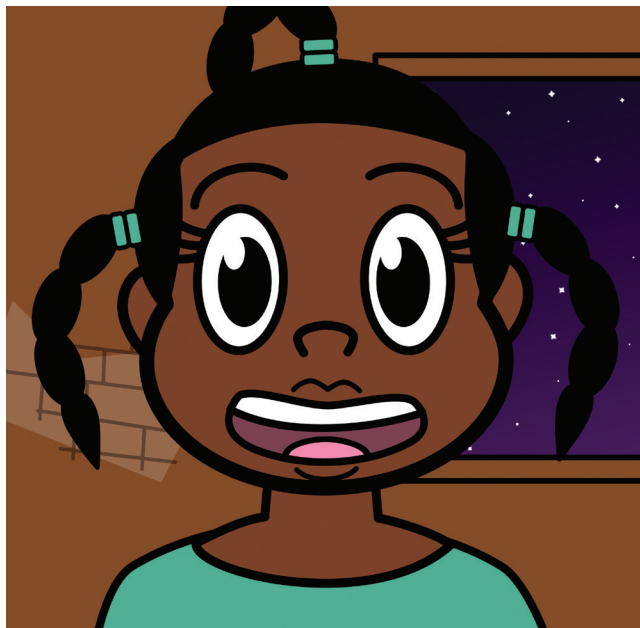
"Where were you guys?!"



"We met a ghost!"



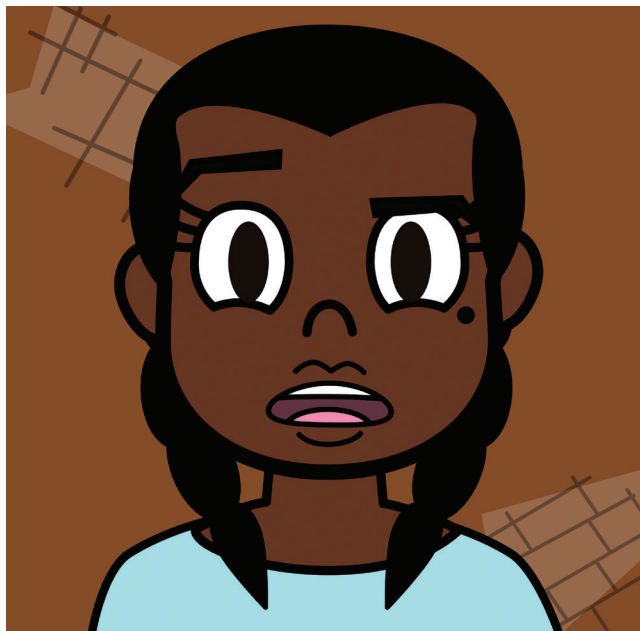
"A ghost?"



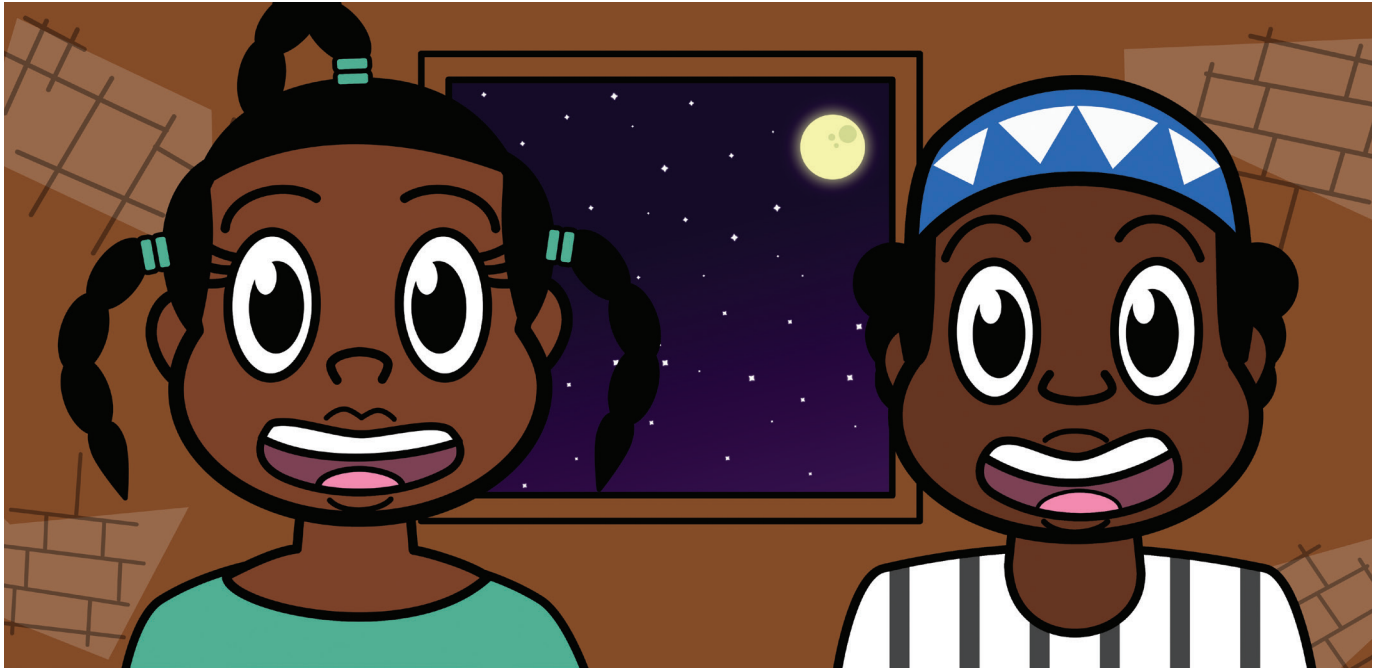
"Yeah, he lives in the cave!"



"And he taught us to write!"



"Write what?"



"Nubian!"



"There's a Nubian alphabet?
What would that even look like?!"

"Here, Baba. Let me show you."